

REMARKS

Status of the Claims.

Claims 1-5, 8, 15, 19, 21-33, and 78-82 are pending with entry of this amendment, claims 6, 7, 9-14, 16-18, 20, 34-77 being cancelled and no claims being added herein. Claims 1, 8, 15, 19, 21, 78, and 82 are amended herein. These amendments introduce no new matter. Support is found in the claims as originally filed.

Election/Restriction.

Pursuant to a restriction requirement made final, Applicants cancel claims 34-77 with entry of this amendment. Please note, however, that Applicants reserve the right to file subsequent applications claiming the canceled subject matter and the claim cancellations should not be construed as abandonment or agreement with the Examiner's position in the Office Action.

Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's thorough consideration of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (Form 1449) submitted on November 19, 2004.

Allowable subject matter.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 8, 15, and 20-24, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

To expedite prosecution, claim 1 is amended to incorporate all the limitations recited in claim 20 and intervening claims (*i.e.*, equivalent to rewriting claim 20 in independent form as suggested). Accordingly, Applicants understand claim 1 to be in condition for allowance.

The remaining pending claims either depend from claim 1 or incorporate all the features of claim 1 and are therefore understood to be in condition for allowance as well.

Please note, however, that this amendment does not constitute agreement with the Examiner's position in the Office Action. Applicants reserve the right to file subsequent applications claiming the canceled or amended subject.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner seek to maintain the rejections, Applicants request a telephone interview with the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor.

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (510) 769-3513.

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Respectfully submitted,



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